20 June 1979

NOTE TO:

In light of the major US security policy issues concerning our future in the western Pacific, I propose a study entitled, "The Major Power Balance in Northeast Asia." This study--either as an IIM or a special NIE---would deal with the military balance along the Sino-Soviet border and in the western Pacific, including the Soviet Pacific Fleet. The paper would review military developments in the area, including those in Japan. It would also discuss the balance in the context of programmed US forces in the Pacific. The study would focus on Soviet perceptions of the strategic balance in northeast Asia and force deployments and likely contingency planning resulting from these perceptions.

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